



FIGURE III.7. Example of bait box for ground squirrels: b) A PVC-pipe anticoagulant bait station for ground squirrels.

peated feedings and help keep children and pets from reaching the bait. Bait boxes are the preferred baiting method around homes and other areas where children, pets, and poultry are present. Unless a bait label specifies otherwise, bait boxes can be constructed from any durable material and in a variety of designs.

There are several things to consider when you are designing a bait box for ground squirrels. The entrance hole(s) should be about 4 inches across to allow access to squirrels but not to larger animals. Construct a lip to prevent bait from spilling out of the box when squirrels exit. Provide a lock on the box or devise some other method that will make it difficult for children to open the box. The bait box should be secured so it cannot be turned over or easily removed. A self-feeding arrangement will insure that the pest gets a continuous supply of bait.

Place bait boxes containing 1 to 5 pounds of bait in areas frequented by ground squirrels (near runways or burrows, for example).

(See fig. III.8.) If ground squirrels are noticeable throughout the area, space the boxes at intervals of 100 to 200 feet. Initially, inspect bait stations daily and add bait as needed. Increase the amount of bait if all is eaten overnight. Fresh bait is important; replace moldy or old bait. It may take a number of days before squirrels become accustomed to the bait box and enter it. Anticoagulant bait generally requires 2 to 4 weeks or more to be effective. It does not immediately affect feeding habits of squirrels. Continue baiting until all feeding ceases and no squirrels are observed. You should pick up and dispose of unused bait upon completion of the control program.

Repeated spot baiting (without a bait box) with anticoagulant bait can be effective in controlling ground squirrels. Follow label instructions. If spot or broadcast baiting is not specified on the product label, *do not use that baiting method.*

Anticoagulant baits have the same effect on nearly all warm-blooded animals, including birds. Cereal baits are attractive to some dogs as well as to other nontarget animals, so take care to prevent their access to the bait. Danger to children and pets can be reduced by placing bait out of their reach, as in a bait box. Dead ground squirrels should be buried or discarded in plastic bags. Do not handle them with your bare hands. In case a person or pet ingests anticoagulant bait, contact a physician or veterinarian immediately.